

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Magdeburg

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DATE OF CONTENT 8 to 21 September 1951

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PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- On 8 September 1951, the Hindenburg Kaserne in Magdeburg (M 53/Y 60) appeared to be occupied to capacity by troops who wore black epaulets with signal insignia and red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. Intensive training activity, primarily involving recruits,

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- The Herrenkrug Kaserne was fully lighted in the evening of 12 September, whereas only a few soldiers were seen in the billeting area during the day. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia

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- The Nachrichten Kaserne at the intersection of Turmschanzenstrasse and Jerichowerstrasse appeared to be occupied to capacity on 14 September. From 10 to 12 units of 15 to 20 recruits each were engaged in close-order drill. Gate guards wore black epaulets. Several amphibious cars were seen in an open shed. Local residents said that the installation quartered an engineer unit. (3)

- On 14 September, the Seeckt Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse was guarded by sentries who wore black epaulets. Source believed that the unit quartered there was a signal unit but was unable to determine its strength. Radio masts were seen on top of two of the barracks buildings. (4)

- A Soviet-occupied block of buildings was located in the borough of Cracau, on the road to Prester. The numerous trucks and the amount of work observed there on 17 September were indicative of a motor transport unit or a repair shop unit.

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(5) A Soviet radio station was located on the so-called Cracauer Anger, east of Herrenkrugstrasse, halfway between Jerichowerstrasse and the railroad bridge. The installation consisted of four radio masts forming a square and one transmitting mast detached and somewhat to the side. The masts were about 15 meters high. Four 25-mm AA guns were emplaced at the east end of the railroad bridge across the Elbe River near Herrenkrug. Artillery bunkers and crew shelters were located in the adjoining woods. Source believed it possible that more gun emplacements were in that area. (6)

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6. On 21 September, the Hindenburg Kaserne seemed to be only partially occupied. Only about one third of the windows of the barracks buildings on the street were lighted at nightfall. Troops observed were primarily black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia, and some red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. About 50 soldiers drilling and 10 trucks

operated by student drivers were seen in the barracks yard. Trucks were seen entering the installation.

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The buildings on the east side of Herrenkrugstrasse, between Jerichowerstrasse and Biederitzerweg, were occupied by Soviet officers with dependents. (1)

7. The Nachrichten Kaserne was only partly occupied on 21 September. Only about 10 windows were lighted at nightfall. Soldiers observed in the billeting area were red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. (3)

8. Only a few soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets were seen in the Seeckt Kaserne on 21 September, although about 15 percent of the barracks windows were lighted after sundown. Student drivers were seen driving nine trucks and 6

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## Field Comments.

- (1) The information by the two sources who report from Magdeburg for the first time, permits the conclusion that the units in the Hindenburg Kaserne include a signal unit. Previous reports indicated headquarters units of the Third Shock Army as being billeted there. The information in paragraph 6 of the present report supports a previous assumption that the installation may quarter a motor transport unit of the Third Shock Army. See

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the information in paragraph 1 agrees with a report of 1 August 1951 by

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another source. See It is possible that the units from the Hindenburg Kaserne, Nachrichten Kaserne and Seeckt Kaserne left for field exercises between 14 and 21 September 1951. The vehicles mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present report belong to the 10th Gds Tank Div and headquarters units of the Third Shock Army, and those in paragraph 6 to the 3d Gds AAA Div and to a supplementary series of the Third Shock Army.

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- (2) The information indicates no substantial change over a report of late July 1951 by another source. See The vehicle numbers in the present report belong to the 19th Gds Recz Div and to the 94th Gds Ptz Rifle Div.

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- (3) According to previous information, the Nachrichten Kaserne is believed to quarter components of the 19th Gds Recz Div, probably including the 573d (?) Porter Regt. An engineer unit may also be quartered there.

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- (4) The information by the two sources agrees with previous reports indicating that the units in the Seeckt Kaserne include signal units, probably of the Third Shock Army.

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- (5) Probably the Flak Kaserne in Magdeburg-Gracau, which is the only Soviet-occupied installation in that sector of the city, and which is believed to quarter components of the 3d Gds AAA Div. However, it is, of course, possible that the present report refers to a hitherto unidentified installation housing a repair shop. The vehicles observed there belong to headquarters units and the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 4th, of the IV Arty Corps, and to a signal unit of the GORC.

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- (6) The radio station is reported for the first time, whereas the AA gun emplacements are known from a previous report. [REDACTED] 25X1A
- (7) The information by the two sources contains some contradictions to previous reports, particularly regarding motor vehicle numbers as pointed out in Field Comments (1), (4) and (5), and therefore reduces the value of the present report and demands clarification of the conflicting information.

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